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FLORIDA MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER

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UF UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA IFAS Extension Lake County Extension

Lake County MGV Mission Statement

The mission of UF/IFAS Lake County Master Gardener Volunteers is to assist extension agents by providing horticultural education programs and current research-based information to the public through plant clinics, community outreach and Discovery Gardens.

Garden Scoop

IPM – Integrated Pest Management

Integrated Pest Management in the Home Landscape

BY K. S. Kennen

IPM is a combination of commonsense practices including cultural, mechanical (physical), biological, and chemical to control pests. Cultural is probably the easiest to implement and something that you already might be doing. Walking around your property regularly looking for any signs of pest or disease damage can bring about early control or a quick end of a problem. On one side of my house, that I don't see unless I make a point of walking by it, there is one plant (lion's tail) that periodically will have mealybugs. It is important to walk around and examine plants for infestation or it could easily get out of hand. Another simple cultural practice is to be sure you mow your lawn the correct height which depends upon the kind of grass you have. Taking too much when you mow can lead to sun scald, diseases, and damage from insects. Also, a big part of cultural practice in IPM is to be sure you plant healthy, Florida Friendly plants which definitely includes natives. Healthy plants are stronger and can withstand minor damage from pests.

Mechanical and physical, also a practice of IPM, can be as simple as pulling weeds or invasives by hand. Attacking an insect infestation by hand can be as simple as crushing them with your fingers or removing a leaf or branch that has pests on them. Even using a strong spray of water to blast them off a branch is effective. Using mulch is also an example of physical control by using it to inhibit weed growth.

Biological, another practice, is the use of natural enemies—predators, parasites, pathogens, and competitors—to control pests and their damage. One that many gardeners are familiar with is the lady beetle. This insect is welcome in the garden since it eats the "bad bugs" and keeps our plants safe from damage and disease. Also, wasps and yellow jackets are beneficial insects. Their young feed on insects that would otherwise damage ornamental plants in your garden.

Chemical practice is probably the first one most gardeners use because they do not use the IPM system. It is important to use the correct chemical and the one that is least harmful to the environment. Once you have researched if the insecticide, herbicide, or fungicide is the applicable one for your problem, applying it in a spot application as opposed to a general application is the best for the environment.

With IPM it is important to first practice prevention with healthy plants and a scheduled monitoring of your landscape. Consider what you will do if a problem with pests is encountered, keeping in mind the effect on your environment and the different strategies you can employ. And finally evaluate the effectiveness of what you have done to see if any further steps need to be taken to further prevent and manage the pests.

A comprehensive reference can be found at this website: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/entity/topic/pest_management

For more information contact: UF/IFAS Extension, Lake County Office lakemg.ifas@ufl.edu ▪ (352) 343-4101▪ FAX (352) 343-2767

Garden Nectar

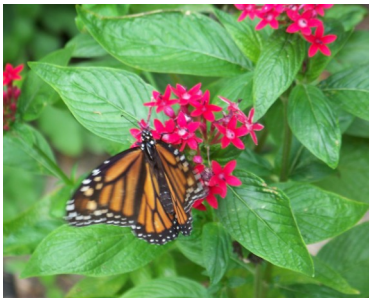
By K. S. Kennen, MGV
Pictures by K. S. Kennen

Corky stem growing among Thryallis

Nectar is not only the food of gods but also butterflies and I have been struggling to keep blooms with nectar available for the butterflies this summer in my garden. The gulf fritillary and zebra longwings began appearing in abundance in my garden in the month of July. I have seen a few monarchs and swallowtails but not as many as last year. I have no problem providing the host plants since milkweed and corky stem passion vine self-seed. There is also a barely, surviving citrus tree for swallowtails and some plumbago shrubs for the Cassius blue in my garden.

The nectar plants have been trying to survive in the summer heat. Black-eyed Susan was available until the end of June because the plants were destroyed by mealy bugs. I made sure though that the seeds were available to place in the garden in hopes that they will come back. Unfortunately, even though some say this is a perennial, so far it has acted as an annual for me. Another nectar plant that I lost to the mealybugs were my red salvia. I had to remove and destroy most of them but with gentle watering some seeds have begun to sprout. Luckily I have three hardy summer bloomers for the butterflies. I notice that the fritillary likes all three, but the monarch and swallowtail seem to prefer only the Pentas. The Penta lanceolata is the red one and is blooming well in full sun. This Florida friendly plant also will grow in the shade but I have no butterflies visiting the two plants I have blooming in the shade. Another bloomer that supplies summer nectar are the vincas, or as some call them periwinkles. I have what I call volunteer plants since I did not plant them. The ones that grow in unexpected places are the lavender bloomers and I have added red ones myself. I really was surprised that the gulf fritillary will visit this plant when nothing else is available. Finally, one sure nectar source for my garden butterflies is zinnias. Every summer I plant some seeds in the front and back yard. The bloom of a zinnia allows the butterfly a place to land and feed on the plant nectar. Interestingly the picture of the two blooms shows one on the left with the yellow florets that provide the nectar and the one on the right does not have any florets in the inflorescence and will not have nectar for the butterflies.

Plumbago



Monarch on red penta

Zinnia – left flower has florets with nectar, right does not have florets so no nectar

I hope the firebush, I planted that seemed to die last year but has resurrected with the rain, will provide another source of summer nectar for the butterflies. I do like to watch and observe their habits. I learn about the time of day they are active (warmer part of day); the blooms that attract them; and the use of the host plants. It is not by accident that your garden will have butterflies but an awareness of their needs both for host and nectar plants.

A fun resource to try is the App that the university has for you to download to your phone for free on this website:

https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/resources/apps/butterfly-gardens/

Gulf Fritterly on vinca bloom

What's Cooking?
Collard Greens with Raisins and Almonds

BY Lori Johnson
Family & Consumer Science Agent

Did you know: Collard greens have vitamin A, vitamin C and vitamin K. They are also a good source of manganese, calcium, and fiber. Vitamin A helps our body with vision and immune system health. Vitamin C helps with healing cuts and wounds. Green vegetables like collards and others provide vitamin K that helps our bodies in blood clotting and bone health. Manganese helps wound healing and carbohydrate and protein metabolism. Besides providing strength for our bones and teeth, calcium helps our muscles contract and fiber helps in digestion.

Collard Greens with Raisins and Almonds
Recipe adapted from *Cooks Recipe* Illustrated

Ingredients:
2 pounds of collard greens, steamed and cut into 2 inch pieces
1 teaspoon salt
¼ teaspoon pepper
¼ cup olive oil
½ cup golden raisins
½ small onion, sliced onion
6 garlic cloves, sliced thin
1/8 teaspoon red pepper flakes
¼ cup Parmesan cheese, grated, plus extra for serving
¼ cup sliced almonds
Fresh lemon wedges for serving

Directions:
1. Add collard greens, salt, pepper, to a Dutch oven. Cover and cook on medium-high heat until tender, about 15-20 minutes, stirring occasionally. If greens become dry, add ¼ -1/2 cup water to help collards steam.

2. Drain greens in colander, pressing with the back of the spoon or spatula to release the extra liquid. Carefully wipe the pot clean with paper towels.

3. Heat ¼ cup olive oil over medium heat in Dutch oven.

4. When simmering, add raisins, onion, garlic, and pepper flakes. Cook until just beginning to turn brown, about 2-4 minutes.

5. Add greens and cook until heated through, about 3 minutes.

6. Remove from the heat and stir in Parmesan cheese.

7. Transfer to a serving dish and sprinkle with almonds, serve with lemon wedges and extra Parmesan cheese.

Plant Clinic Clatter

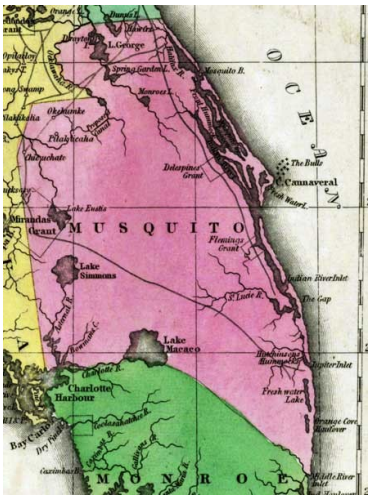
By R. Doherty, MGV

DEAR MASTER GARDENER; I've heard that termites come inside bags of mulch, and I should buy it from a large distributor that delivers. Is it true that I'll get termites from bagged mulch that'll infest my home?

DEAR HOMEOWNER;

Although there may be some insects inside your purchased bags of mulch, termites are not likely among them. It's too hot and dark in there for them. If you do find any crawlies in your mulch, they're most likely ants. However, that's not to say it can't happen. To quote EDIS ENY832, "Termites can be found in mulch, but their survival is poor and here is why: the ability of termites to survive the chipping process to create mulch is not good; additionally, once separated from the colony, their ability to survive further decreases. Finally, even when termites are found in mulch, mulch-fed termites suffer significantly lower survivorship (Long et al. 2001)." It is more likely that termites are already in your landscape and laying mulch too close or too high near your foundation/structure may help them bridge the gap between your site and your buildings. So, remember when laying down your mulch, keep it at least 12" from the house foundation and only 2-3" high. Having thick mounds of mulch will increase the termite habitat: wet & temperate.

Resources: Types of mulch | Termites & Mulch | Living Green | FFL Principle #4 | Termites: Types of, Season | EDIS ENY2044



DEAR MASTER GARDENER: How can I control mosquitoes in my yard?

DEAR HOMEOWNER: Ah, yes. Summertime in Florida means the unofficial state bird is out – the mosquito. In any geographic region, mosquito season depends on two factors: rainfall and temperature. And Florida has plenty of both as well as 90 different species -more than any other state. Early settlers even named a large area of eastern Florida, Musquito County, and a National Park named, Mosquito Beach! Two of Florida's most common mosquito species are *Aedes albopictus* (Asian tiger mosquito) and *Psorophora ciliata* (gallinipper).

CONTROL is key when dealing with these insects. Did you know Lake County helps control mosquitoes by using mosquito adulticides malathion (Fyfanon) and permethrin (Permanone 31-66).

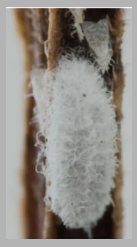
Mosquitoes are attracted to damp or humid areas; dark, shady areas; standing water; carbon dioxide (your breath); and warm temperatures. Since eggs are laid in standing water, it's important to be aware of aquatic habitats in your landscape (permanent water, floodwater, and containers) and keep the water that collects in them under control during the summer.

Repellents	Control
• Apply EPA approved with DEET; lasts 2-4 hours. • Wear clothing that covers your skin. • Cover doors and windows with screens to keep mosquitoes out. • Scented plants can repel mosquitoes when used correctly. Such as rosemary sprigs thrown on barbecue to smoke and drive mosquitoes away. • Basil in a pot has a strong scent that can drive mosquitoes away so keep it near you.	• Clean out eaves and gutters. • Drill holes in or remove old tires. • Turn over empty plastic pots. • Check tarps on boats and equipment for standing water. • Pump out bilges on boats. • Replace birdbath water once a week. • Empty water in plant trays and hanging baskets once a week. • Remove vegetation or obstructions in drainage ditches that prevent water flow. • Clear out thick brush to increase airflow around the home.
Stay away from sunscreens with repellent as they require more frequent application than the insecticide does.	Lake County Mosquito Control, interactive map for spraying and website

UF/IFAS Links: Mosquito Control | EDIS ENY753, ENY671, Mosquitos | Repellents, CDC | Entomology

DEAR MASTER GARDENER: My Crape Myrtle has a white, cottony substance all over the branches. What can I do to remove it? I've also notices these small orange bugs on my lemon tree. Should I be concerned?

DEAR HOMEOWNER: Upon looking at your samples and photos, it looks like you have Crape Myrtle bark scale. Although they will not kill your tree, they may stunt its growth.
As for the orange bugs on your lemon tree, these look like Bark Scale nymphs. Unfortunately, these can kill your tree, so definitely follow the biological control advice in the articles listed below.
See below for further information.

Crape myrtle bark scale *Acanthococcus lagerstroemia*	A type of felt scale, this is the only known scale to feed on Crape Myrtles. White or gray mature scales produce an abundance of sooty mold (which attracts ants) and tend to aggregate around pruning wounds or branch crotches on old wood. The pink juveniles prefer new growth (eggs are also pink). They may not kill your tree, but they can stunt growth and flower blooms, create branch dieback, and other aesthetic issues.	 Infestation of crape myrtle bark scale. Photo courtesy of Jim Robbins, University of Arkansas CES, Bugwood.org  Links: Report siting | EDIS EENY711 | CM Bark Scale | Pest Alert
Black Scale (*Saissetia oleae*)	A pest of citrus, olive, & avocado trees, and other landscape plants in Florida, the black scale sucks sap from inside the plant tissue. This can be debilitating to the plant/tree's health and cause dieback and wilting over time. Extended periods of high humidity & densely planted landscapes is perfect for outbreaks - females laying up to 2,500 eggs at a time!	 Adult females and orange crawling nymphs of the black scale. Photo courtesy of Lyle Buss, University of Florida. Links: Black Scale | Entomology | EDIS EENY620 | Sooty Mold

Gardens of the Month

Garden of the Month for June is the Butterfly Garden

This garden provides a balance of host and nectar plants for butterflies. A walk through will show you what plants to have in your garden if you want to attract butterflies.

Garden of the month for July is the Grape Arbor

When asked about her garden, the lead, Delphine Salai said:

The grape arbor brick area, fountain, and plants was a kind of vision I had when I first jumped in and took over as lead. So much work ensued, with many, many people helping to bring it together. And, the vision is not yet complete. I 'see' a black wrought iron fence enclosing the area where the hydrangeas are; I am building a little kiosk that will house the story of the brick, information about muscadines and a list of all the people that joined me in that vision.

Thank you all! Very,very grateful for the help.

Master Gardener Volunteer Plant Clinic

Bring your plant, insects, and soil problems to our Plant Clinic for advice Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The plant clinic is staffed by volunteers. Please call ahead at 352-343-4101 to be sure that someone is in the clinic to assist you with your question. You may also send photos of your local problems to Jamielyn Daugherty at jdaugherty@ufl.edu or to the plant clinic at lakemg@ifas.ufl.edu.

Classes

Rain Barrel Workshop

August 27, 2022. 10 a.m.

1951 Woodlea Rd, Tavares, FL 32778

Learn how to and make a rain barrel.

Cost $55

Register on Eventbrite

Cooking in an Instant

August 04, 2022
No Cost
Led by Lori Johnson, Family & Consumer Science Agent
Location: Eustis Memorial Library, 120 North Center Street, Eustis

Learn about cooking in an electric pressure cooker via an Instant Pot. Program includes an overview, tips, cooking demonstration, and recipe sample.

Preregistration required, to reserve your spot call the library at 352-357-5686

Discovery Gardens

Please plan a visit to over twenty different gardens located at 1951 Woodlea Road in Tavares. The hours are Monday through Friday and the third Saturday of the month from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Just like your yard, Discovery Garden changes with the seasons and will reveal something new with each visit. The summer weather can challenge any garden; see how these are doing in the heat and humidity.